

Subpart B—Determining Rate of Basic Pay

SOURCE: 45 FR 65498, Oct. 3, 1980, unless otherwise noted.

§ 531.201 Applicability.

This subpart and sections 5333 and 5334 of title 5, United States Code, apply to employees and positions, other than Senior Executive Service positions, to which chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code, applies.

[58 FR 65535, Dec. 15, 1993; 59 FR 5223, Feb. 3, 1994]

§ 531.202 Definitions.

In this subpart:

Agency has the meaning given that word by section 5102 of title 5, United States Code.

Demotion means a change of an employee, while continuously employed, from:

(1) One General Schedule grade to a lower General Schedule grade, with or without reduction in pay; or

(2) A higher rate paid under authority other than subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, to a lower rate within a General Schedule grade.

Employee means an employee of an agency to whom this subpart applies.

Existing rate of basic pay means the rate received immediately before the effective date of a transfer, promotion, demotion, or within-grade increase.

GM employee means an employee who was covered by the Performance Management and Recognition System under chapter 54 of title 5, United States Code, on October 31, 1993 (and therefore became covered on November 1, 1993, by section 4 of Pub. L. 103-89, the Performance Management and Recognition System Termination Act of 1993), and who continues thereafter to occupy a position as a supervisor or management official (as defined in paragraphs (10) and (11) of section 7103(a) of title 5, United States Code) in the same grade of the General Schedule and in the same agency without a break in service of more than 3 calendar days. Any reference to employees, grades, positions, or rates of basic pay under the General Schedule shall

include GM employees for the purposes of subchapter I and III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code.

Higher grade means a General Schedule grade above the last previous General Schedule grade or its equivalent held by the employee.

Highest previous rate means—

(1) The highest actual rate of basic pay previously received by an individual while employed in a position in a branch of the Federal Government (executive, legislative, or judicial); a Government corporation, as defined in 5 U.S.C. 103; the United States Postal Service or the Postal Rate Commission; or the government of the District of Columbia (except as provided in § 531.203(d)(2)(v) of this part); without regard to whether the position was subject to the General Schedule; or

(2) The actual rate of basic pay for the highest grade and step previously held by an individual while employed in a position subject to the General Schedule.

Moved involuntarily means the movement of the incumbent of a position in a nonappropriated fund instrumentality under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard, as described in 5 U.S.C. 2105(c), with the position when it is moved to the civil service employment system of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard, respectively.

New appointment means the first appointment, regardless of tenure, as an employee of the Federal Government or the Government of the District of Columbia.

Promotion means a change of an employee, while continuously employed, from:

(1) One General Schedule grade to a higher General Schedule grade; or

(2) A lower rate paid under authority other than subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, to a higher rate within a General Schedule grade.

Rate of basic pay means the rate of pay fixed by law or administrative action for the position held by an employee before any deductions and exclusive of additional pay of any kind.

Reassignment means a change of an employee, while serving continuously in the same agency, from one position

to another without promotion or demotion.

Reemployment means an employment, including reinstatement or another type of appointment, after a break in service of at least 1 full workday.

Transfer means a change of an employee, without a break in service of 1 full workday, from one branch of the Federal Government (executive, legislative, or judicial) to another or from one agency to another.

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§ 531.203 General provisions.

(a) *New Appointments.* Except as provided by section 5333(a) of title 5, United States Code, and paragraph (b) of this section, a new appointment is made at the minimum rate of the grade, or when the minimum rate of the grade of a position has been set under part 530 of this chapter, a new appointment is made at the minimum rate set under part 530 of this chapter.

(b) *Superior qualifications appointments.* (1) A “superior qualifications appointment” means an appointment made at a rate above the minimum rate of the appropriate General Schedule grade under authority of section 5333 of title 5, United States Code, because of the superior qualifications of the candidate or a special need of the agency for the candidate’s services.

(2) An agency may make a superior qualifications appointment by new appointment or by reappointment except that when made by reappointment, the candidate must have a break in service of at least 90 calendar days from his or her last period of Federal employment or employment with the District of Columbia (other than—

(i) Employment with the Government of the District of Columbia when the candidate was first appointed by the DC Government on or after October 1, 1987;

(ii) Employment under an appointment as an expert or consultant under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) Employment under a temporary appointment effected primarily in furtherance of a postdoctoral research

program, or effected as part of a predoctoral or postdoctoral training program during which the employee receives a stipend, or employment under a temporary appointment of a graduate student when the work performed by the student is the basis for completing certain academic requirements for an advanced degree;

(iv) Employment in a cooperative work-study program under a Schedule B appointment made in accordance with section 213.3202 of this chapter;

(v) Employment as a member of the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service;

(vi) Employment which is neither full-time employment nor the principal employment of the candidate; or

(vii) Employment under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act).

(3) In determining whether an employee should receive a superior qualifications appointment and, if so, at what level the employee’s pay should be set, the agency must consider the possibility of authorizing a recruitment bonus as provided in part 575 of this chapter.

(4) Each agency that makes superior qualifications appointments must establish documentation and record-keeping procedures sufficient to allow reconstruction of the action taken in each case. Documentation must include—

(i) The superior qualifications of the individual or special need of the agency that justified use of this authority;

(ii) The factors considered in determining the individual’s existing pay and the reason for setting pay at a rate higher than that needed to match existing pay; and

(iii) The reasons for authorizing an advanced rate instead of or in addition to a recruitment bonus.

(5) Each agency using the superior qualifications authority must establish appropriate internal guidelines and evaluation procedures to ensure compliance with the law, these regulations, and agency policies.

(c) *Maximum payable rate rules.* In determining an employee’s rate of basic pay upon reemployment, transfer, reassignment, promotion, demotion, or